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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3699th meeting of the Security Council, held on 28 September 1996, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reiterates its grave concern about the military confrontation in Afghanistan.

"The Security Council is also concerned at the violation of the United Nations premises in Kabul and expresses its dismay at the brutal execution by the Taliban of the former President of Afghanistan, Najibullah, and others who had taken refuge in these premises.

"The Security Council demands that all parties fulfil their obligations and commitments regarding the safety of the United Nations personnel and other international personnel in Afghanistan. It calls upon all Afghans to cooperate fully with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with other humanitarian organizations and agencies in their efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan. It calls for the immediate cessation of all armed hostilities and urgently calls upon the leaders of the Afghan parties to renounce the use of force, to put aside their differences and to engage in a political dialogue aimed at achieving national reconciliation. The Council also calls upon all States to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

"The Security Council reaffirms its full support for the efforts of the United Nations in Afghanistan, in particular the activities of the United Nations Special Mission. It calls upon all parties to cooperate with the Special Mission which will act as a key and impartial facilitator in order to bring about a peaceful solution to the conflict as soon as possible. The Council calls upon all States to take all steps necessary to

promote peace in Afghanistan and to work together with the United Nations to this end.

"The Security Council will continue to follow with close attention developments in Afghanistan."